

The National Sporting Library & Museum NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

MIDDLEBURG, VIRGINIA

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A New Era: Inaugural Exhibition Draws 4,554 Visitors

Afield in America: 400 Years of Animal and Sporting Art, inaugural exhibition in the new Museum, attracted 4,554 visitors during its 14 week run, ushering in a new era for the National Sporting Library and Museum.

Executive Director Rick Stoutamyer, who has closely supervised the expansion of the institution since 2009, predicted that the project would be "an opportunity to expand our appeal to a national audience." The first step was to develop a building that would meet state-of-the-art standards for an art museum. The second was to create an important inaugural exhibition. This task was undertaken by board member and guest curator F. Turner Reuter, Jr. whose book, *Animal and Sporting Artists of America*, published by the Library in 2008, served as the basis for *Afield in America*, which Reuter determined would illustrate the importance of animal and sporting art as a reflection of American history and cultural life.

Over 150 works of art, many of them by icons such as Bierstadt, Homer, Miller and Remington, were borrowed from private collections and 29 museums located in Georgia, Wyoming, Tennessee, Alabama, Maryland, Maine, Missouri, Massachusetts, New York, California, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, Colorado, Michigan, South Carolina, Connecticut, Wisconsin and Canada. National participation was expanded further by the selection of four scholars to write essays for the eponymous 208 page, color-illustrated, exhibition catalog: William H. Gerdts, Ph.D., art historian and author of *Art Across America*; Adam D. Harris, Ph.D., Curator of the National



National Sporting Library and Museum, photo by Brandon Webster

Museum of Wildlife Art and author of *Wildlife in American Art*; Daniel J. Herman, Ph.D., historian and author of *Hunting and the American Imagination*; and Robin R. Salmon, author and Vice President for Collections and Curator of Sculpture, Brookgreen Gardens. The opening of the new building and its inaugural exhibition were celebrated with a gala and three-day historic coach event that brought 400 participants from around the country to Middleburg.

There was media attention at the local, regional and national levels. The progress of the new museum building was given extensive coverage by local press such as *The Middleburg Eccentric* and *Middleburg Life*. Listings, ads and articles appeared in a variety of publications including *The Washington Post Weekend Travel*, *Washington Life*, *The Georgetowner*, *Fairfax Times*, *Chronicle of*

the Horse, *Albemarle Piedmont Virginian Garden & Gun*, *American Art Review*, *Western Art Collector*, *Antiques and Fine Art Magazine*, *Fine Books & Collections Magazine*, *The Magazine Antiques* and *Apollo Magazine* (London). Selected online coverage included the *Washington Social Diary-New York Social Diary*, Carol Joynt; *Washington Business Journal*; *Washington Life* online, Vicky Moon; and *The Magazine Antiques* online calendar. The exhibition was listed on the "VisitLoudoun" and "Virginia is for Lovers" Web site calendars, along with other regional calendars.

The message was expanded even more by the introduction in November of a new Web site designed by Bluetext, Washington, D.C., and the gift of board member Clarke Ohrstrom.

Visitors came from every region of the country, expressing enthusiasm for what they had seen. "The art and the building fit together beautifully!" was a frequent comment. There was excitement over seeing so much American animal and sporting art gathered together in one space, as well as work from private collections not open to the public. Congratulations were offered for the NSLM's achievement of its goal to preserve, share and promote the literature, art and culture of equestrian and field sports. Other guests, especially from the Middleburg region, returned with friends and family eager to share the experience. In a wonderful expression of support, the Middleburg Business and Professional Association presented a special award to the National Sporting Library and Museum for "outstanding community service and the extraordinary contribution it is making to our town."



Middleburg Business and Professional Association Award Recipients, photo by Cindy Pearson

Bobins Print Collection

The NSLM is the new home of a fine collection of equestrian and British sporting prints, hand-colored engravings, etchings and lithographs dating from the mid-18th through the early 19th centuries. Norman R.

Bobins, a Chicago financier and banker, has gifted nearly eighty important works on paper to the NSLM, following the generous footsteps of recent donors like Felicia Warburg Rogan, whose collection is now on view in the new museum, and reintroducing the Sporting Art Initiative. Thirty years ago, Bobins and his wife Virginia began avidly collecting equine and sporting prints and antiquarian books after a meaningful visit to the Yale Center for British Art initiated their passion for British sporting life.

Images of celebrated British and Continental racecourses, Goodwood and Baden Baden; champion Thoroughbreds, Beggarman and Riddlesworth; and match races, Travellor vs. Meteor; as well as fox hunting and coaching scenes, make up the majority of this extensive gift. Also included are aquatints of shooting, stag hunting and coursing representing unique additions to the NSLM print collection; most notably, a rare and important series of agricultural lithographs by J. F. Herring, Sr.

Important sporting artists Henry and Samuel Alken, John Ferneley, Sr., James Pollard, Henry Chalon, John Sartorius and Charles C. Henderson bring to life British sporting culture and rural life. An exhibition of selected works from the Bobins collection is forthcoming.

—Hannah Reuter



Bobins Collection installation, Founders' Room, Library



(after) Samuel Howitt (English, 1765 – 1822)

Partridge Shooting, 1809

Hand-colored aquatint

Gift of Norman and Virginia Bobins, 2012



(after) John Frederick Herring, Sr. (English, 1795 – 1865)

Hay-Making, c. 1856

Color lithographs

Gift of Norman and Virginia Bobins, 2012

Three Special Book and Periodical Collections Donated

This fall, three extraordinary collections were donated to the Library.

M. L. "Duke" Biscotti, of Ashtabula, Ohio, gave his entire collection of fly-fishing books published by Meadow Run Press. Many of the 55 books are deluxe editions in fine bindings. As an example of the fine quality, *The Book of the Tarpon* by A. W. Dimock, first published in 1911, was republished in 1990 by Meadow Run, and is bound in fine leather and boxed in a teak box with a tied fly under glass, and a carved tarpon fighting the fly on the side. Meadow Run is owned by William Trego of Stone Harbor, New Jersey.

Biscotti is a bookseller and author of four books including *American Sporting Book Series* (1994), *A Bibliography of Sporting Books 1926-1985* (1997), and *Paul Brown: Master of Equine Art* (2001). Biscotti gave the 2009 Treasures from the Rare Book Room dinner-lecture for Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council donors, "Thrills Illustrated: Equine Splendor and Feats Captured by Paul Brown."

The family of the late Ed Muderlak, of Durand, Illinois, donated from his collection a full run of a reprinted American periodical *The Rifle* Vol. I-IV, 1885-1888, which was renamed *Shooting and Fishing* in

continued on page 5

Felicia Warburg Rogan Sporting Art Initiative

The Felicia Warburg Rogan Sporting Art Collection, formerly located in the Founders' Room of the Library, now resides on the Vine Hill first floor of the new Museum. Fifteen paintings, including important works by the English artists Sir Alfred J. Munnings, Lionel D. R. Edwards, John Emms, John F. Herring, Jr., George Wright and Michael Lyne, were generously gifted in 2008 by Felicia W. Rogan of Charlottesville, Virginia. "I am so happy that the collection is all together at the Sporting Library," she said in a speech to announce the gift, "and over the years will be seen by admirers of these artists."

The Felicia Warburg Rogan Sporting Art Initiative was her challenge to other collectors, a call answered by donors such as Hector Alcalde, Norman and Virginia Bobins, Dr. and Mrs. Timothy J. Greenan, Helen K. Groves, Manuel H. Johnson, Jacqueline B. Mars and Jacqueline L. Ohrstrom.

Visitors



Billy Journelle



Charles and Rachel Bernheim, Salisbury, North Carolina and NYC and Diana and Jim Keesee



Greg Nygard, Elsa Nyqard, Jennifer Nygard, Louis Everard O'Connor. Washington, D.C.



Bullock and Associates, Leesburg, Virginia



Carl Mullins and Beth Rasin from *The Chronicle of the Horse*



Scott Price, Office of Mark R. Warner, United States Senator, Virginia



James Keesee, Diana Keesee and Eileen Hammond, Nancy Hammond, David Hammond of Washington, D.C.



Richard Hamilton, Barbara Sloan, Jean Brown, Shirley Lyle Volberg



Linda Conti and Hill School 4th graders Cristina Sirianni and Addie Jenkins



Linda Conti and Hill School students



Lisa Campbell, Phil Pierce, Jeff Boyer, Jerry Keathley



Warrenton Antiquarian Society, Warrenton, Virginia



Mark Whatford, Librarian and Archivist, Gunston Hall; Joan Stahl, Head Librarian, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, Museum and Gardens



Robin and Dick Woods, Connecticut



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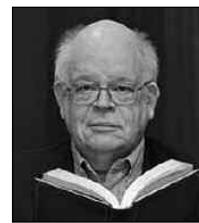
F. Turner Reuter, Jr.

George A. Weymouth, *Ex Officio*

"Treasures from the Rare Book Room" Lecture Captivates

Terry Belanger, founder of the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia and a MacArthur Fellow, spoke at the Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council "Treasures from the Rare Book Room" on November 3, 2011. As an influential teacher and advocate, Belanger uses original materials to convey information about early books. In his lecture that evening, "Will the Real Canada Goose Please Honk: Teaching Audubon Using Both Originals and Facsimiles," Belanger demonstrated the evolution of Audubon images providing guests with insight and an opportunity to closely examine the topic.

On April 19th there will be a "Treasures from the Rare Book Room" lecture by Lord Charles Cecil, Vice Chairman of the R.S. Surtees Society which was founded in 1979 to republish all R.S. Surtees's works—then entirely out of print.



Terry Belanger, photo by Adam Mastoon

Preview Night at the Museum



Bruno Liljefors (Swedish, 1860 – 1939), *Marine*, 1927 (detail), Courtesy of the Genesee Country Village & Museum, Mumford, New York

Ivy Circle, Chairman's Council donors and guests were treated to a preview of *Wildlife Paintings of Bruno Liljefors* (Swedish, 1860 – 1939), on February 3, 2012.



Jay Sheehan, Judy Sheehan, Paul Dietrich



Mark and Karin Ohrstrom



Deanna Akre and Julie Coles



MacDonalds and Ohrstroms

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National Sporting Library Annual Report of 2011 Donors

Chairman's Letter

The year 2011 was an extraordinary time for the National Sporting Library and Museum (NSLM) as we celebrated the opening of the new Sporting Art Museum with a gala, three-day historic coach event, and an inaugural exhibition, *Afield in America: 400 Years of Animal and Sporting Art*. I personally wish to thank the NSLM Board of Directors, Executive Director Rick Stoutamer, and the staff for their unwavering effort to make the dream of a new museum become a brilliant reality. I also thank our wonderful donors whose generosity makes it possible to provide such impressive facilities and programs, the village of Middleburg, and the broader community of sporting enthusiasts for their support and encouragement.

We are pleased that 400 people came from around the country and Canada, some of them bringing historic carriages and teams of horses, to celebrate the opening of the Museum October 7-9th. Many people worked to make the weekend a success. I expressly would like to recognize Jacqueline B. Mars and Anjela Guarriello for co-chairing a fabulous gala on Saturday evening.

Special recognition goes to board member and guest curator F. Turner Reuter, Jr., for creating an exhibition that brought 4,554 visitors to the Museum. We are honored that private collectors and 29 museums loaned works of art selected to illustrate how animal and sporting art reflects themes in American history. A beautiful color catalog accompanied the exhibition and a second edition was printed of Reuter's book, *Animal and Sporting Artists in America*, first published by the Library in 2008.

The support of the community has been expressed in many ways: over 300 people attended an open house in November, residents brought friends and family to the Museum in large numbers, and the Middleburg Business and Professional Association gave special recognition to the NSLM. Additional volunteers have signed on to help with increased activities.

The year was filled with many programs that also deserve attention. The popular Duplicate Book Sale raised \$10,525 for the Book Acquisition Fund. An NSLM Book Fair, part of the Hunt Country Stable Tour, was introduced and brought five authors to the Library. The Book Fair drew a capacity crowd, raising \$1,700 for book acquisition, and will become an annual event.

Thirty-three people applied for the 2011-2012 John H. Daniels Fellowships and seven were selected. The Fellowship continues to attract an international audience with awards this year going to a Canadian and an Australian. Three previous recipients had research-related books published in 2011: Susan McHugh, Horace Laffaye, and Elizabeth Letts, whose story of *The Eighty-Dollar Champion* made the New York Times non-fiction best seller list. Alison Goodrum (England) spoke about her research both in London and New Zealand.

Two exhibitions were held in the Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall. *Horses at Work and Play* featured the renowned Spilhaus antique toy collection and *In the Blacksmith Shop* highlighted three early prints loaned by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Community members became involved and loaned paintings and ephemera to the exhibition, including the shoes of 2011 Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom. Special events were held for Ivy Circle, Chairman's Council, and Guardian members for each of the exhibitions and tours for children were designed. *Horses at Work and Play* was celebrated with lectures by curators Mickey Gustafson and Lisa Campbell, reflections on the collection by the late Kathleen Spilhaus, and comments by Susan Byrne who helped facilitate the loan. A celebration of the second exhibition featured guest speaker H. Graham Motion, Animal Kingdom's trainer.

Treasures from the Rare Book Room, an annual event for Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council members, was hosted by Jacqueline B. Mars at the Meredyth Pavilion and featured an illustrated lecture on John J. Audubon prints by Terry Belanger, founder of the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia and a MacArthur Fellow.

Other lectures, free and open to the public, were hosted: "In the Pinque," by Daniels Fellow Alison Goodrum (England); Battle of Ball's Bluff lecture and book signing, by James Morgan, with Mosby Heritage Area Association; and talks by Book Fair-featured writers Rita Mae Brown, Leeanne Ladin, Tim Rice, Bill Woods, and Norman Fine.

The Kentucky Derby party, a popular new event was created. The esteemed NSLM/Chronicle Cup was awarded at the Virginia Fall Races and the NSLM hosted a reception tent.

Many private tours were conducted this year for groups, organizations, and individuals to expand awareness of the National Sporting Library and Museum, its facilities, and its mission to preserve, share, and promote the art, literature, and culture of equestrian and field sports. Mary and I had the pleasure of co-hosting with Jacqueline B. Mars in Washington, D.C., a reception showcasing the NSLM to a new audience. Extensive media coverage at the local, regional, and national level has increased the institution's presence. A new Web site, the gift of board member Clarke Ohrstrom, is expanding accessibility. The National Sporting Library and Museum has entered a new era and I thank the many people who contributed skills, time, money, and effort to making this momentous step possible.

Sincerely,

Manuel H. Johnson
Chairman of the Board

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Book Donation

continued from page 2

IV until it ended with Vol. XLI in 1906. The reprinted volumes are nicely bound in high-quality black leatherette by publisher Broadfoot Publishing Company, Wilmington, North Carolina. The weekly magazine covered the news and features of sport shooting and fly-fishing, with illustrations. The comprehensive three-volume index, included with the donation, will be quite valuable to researchers.

A scholar of early American sport, Muderlak (1940-2011) was a frequent user of the Library's resources from the rare book room and periodical collection in the course of his research in the early 2000s. He is the author of four books on sport shooting including *When Ducks were Plenty: The Golden Age of Duck Hunting* (2000) and *Parker Guns: Shooting Flying and the American Experience* (2008). Muderlak is fondly remembered by NSLM staff as a diligent researcher who eagerly shared his knowledge and findings, and spent many hours in the lower level stacks.

Elizabeth Rowland, founder and publisher of Half Halt Press, gave her collection of 708 equestrian books from her personal collection as well as Half Halt's. This extensive collection features some of the finest horsemanship, dressage, eventing, and horse care books of the late 20th and early 21st century.

Rowland established Half Halt Press in Boonsboro, Maryland, in 1987. In her early years as a publisher, she credited Alexander Mackay-Smith as her mentor and for his encouragement. She has published the works of famous equestrians such as Charles de Kunffy, Ian Stark, Sally O'Connor and Holly Hugo-Vidal, as well as the works of several equestrian journalists. Rowland is retiring from publishing and closing Half Halt. Trafalgar Square Publishing, in North Pomfret, Vermont, is taking over her stable of authors and will continue to publish current Half Halt titles.

The gifts from all three donors have been catalogued and shelved in the Library's collection for access by researchers and visitors.

—Lisa Campbell



Major collections of angling, shooting and equestrian books have been given to the Library.

Graham Motion Recounts Kentucky Derby Win

Graham Motion spoke to Ivy Circle, Chairman's Council and Guardian donors about his Kentucky Derby win. The unassuming, highly respected trainer talked about the timeline of getting Animal Kingdom to the Derby. The audience hung on every word and had many questions. Mrs. Jo Motion, a 1950's Steeplechase champion, delighted everyone when she challenged her son to answer an inquiry more fully, which he did. This wonderful evening was in celebration of the exhibition *In the Blacksmith Shop*.



Motion family: Pippa, Claire, Michael, Graham, Jo, Janie, Andrew, Mary



Rick Stoutamyer, Graham Motion, Andrew Motion



Joseph Manson, Peggy Arundel, Viviane Warren, Edie Smart



Jacque Mars, Phil Thomas, Missy Janes, Patti Thomas



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Mosby Heritage Area Association Preservation Award winners Janet Whitehouse and Hope Porter
photo by Douglas Lees



NSLM board member Mimi Abel Smith, Catherine Murdock, Dana Westring, Geoffrey T. Prentis, James Perkins, Esq., The Hon. Trevor Potter, Monsieur Bertrand du Vignaud de Villefort

'See you not a hawk?': The Visual Vocabulary of Early Modern Hunting, Fowling, & Hawking

By Patricia Akhimie

The period 1580-1640 saw both a renaissance of English drama and conduct literature—including manuals on genteel sports and recreations—as well as a steep rise in England's level of engagement with the wider world through the various enterprises of colonialism, exploration, trade. My project examines the crucial role that sports such as hunting and hawking played in early modern accounts of New World flora and fauna, idyllic fantasies of colonial living, and episodes of encounter between English travelers and settlers and indigenous peoples. As I reshape my dissertation, *Cultivating Difference: Early Modern Drama and the Literature of Travel*, into a book manuscript, I hope to include more visual materials relating to leisure activities, particularly hunting, archery and hawking from the period 1580-1640.

In my third chapter, "This green plot shall be our stage": Performance in the Periphery," I explore the importance of hunting to "entertainment," the custom of welcoming guests with dramatic performance. I read conduct books on hunting and country house entertainments in order to show how the combined performance of these two activities serves to define the relative social roles of the participants and their respective relationships to the land. Returning from the hunt, guests of country estates might encounter vignettes involving shepherds or gardeners in the green space between wilderness and household. These performances contrast the outdoor recreations of elite landowners with the symbolic labor of agricultural workers. I see a similar strategy at work in New World promotional literature, where authors attempted to entice settlers by describing the expertise of Native American huntsmen in detail, recasting the untamed landscape as a hunting ground for gentlemen or for those who aspired to that status. Encounters between



Daniels Fellow Patricia Akhimie

the groups were often marked by activities described as "entertainments" and thus as completely comprehensible gestures of welcome. I argue that discursive slippage in descriptions of hunting and "entertainment" reveals an implicit debate over the claims of settlers and indigenous groups to the land.

I have already shown how the hunt was understood as a performance of social difference in which the roles all participants and their relationships to one another were quite clear. I have also been able to demonstrate how the performance that is the hunt is refigured by authors attempting to describe and understand exotic cultures and landscapes. I am now seeking to couple my analysis of rhetorical strategies with an analysis of visual strategies. By examining the range of images that early modern English people would have associated with hunting in its many forms, I hope to build a visual vocabulary of hunting that I can then bring to bear on the wealth of images of the New World that depict native as well as

European hunters, images such as the engraving "English Sportsmen in the New World" which appeared in Theodor de Bry's *Americae Pars Decima* (Figure 1).

The National Sporting Library's extensive holdings related to early modern sports—particularly hunting and hawking—offer a unique opportunity to uncover relevant sources not otherwise available. Works such as the very rare *Venationes Ferarum, Avium, Piscium, Pugnae Bestiariorum et Muttae Bestiarium Delineatae* (1627) offers a comparative history of hunting through a series of detailed etchings, many of which are completely unfamiliar to scholars of early modern English literature and culture. Each image in this collection presents the Renaissance reader with an example of one method of hunting, fishing, or fowling from a foreign region of the world. The drawings are based on the limited ethnographic and zoological information that would have been available to the artist. Thus, in this untitled image from *Venationes* (Figure 2) indigenous Americans are shown hunting ducks by means of a particularly fantastic method. This dubious scenario involves hunters wearing hollowed-out gourds on their heads hiding underwater. When the ducks alight on the gourds, thinking that they are safe and comfortable rocks, the submerged hunters seize their moment and grab them! Or so the artist would have us believe.

Though many of the details may be inaccurate, works such as *Venationes* offer a window into the ways in which early modern Europeans understood the wider world. As these scenes show, certain aspects of the hunt were believed to be universal, no matter how exotic the prey, how intricate the method of capture, or how far from familiar ground. Each scene shows hunters engaged in the process of mastering a landscape with whatever tools and traditions are at their disposal. The images themselves are designed to delight a reading audience with a grand spectacle that is at once a familiar "entertainment" and a glimpse of the strange customs and countries beyond the reach of the average reader.

Daniels Fellow Patricia Akhimie, Ph.D., was a doctoral student at Columbia University and is now an Assistant Professor of English at Rutgers University, Newark.



Figure 1. "English Sportsmen in the New World," from Theodor de Bry's *Americae Pars Decima*



Figure 2. from Antonio Tempesta's *Venationes*

Recent Book Donations

Irving Abb – *A Sporting and Dramatic Career* by Alfred E.T. Watson (1918) and two copies of *Frank Forester's Sporting Scenes and Characters* by Henry William Herbert (1881).

Monee Botwick – *The Official Horse Show Blue Book* and *The History of Bourbon King* by W. Jefferson Harris (1934).

Jackie Burke – Assorted horse show programs and personal manuscripts.

The Chronicle of the Horse – Made For Each Other by Meg Daley Olmert (2009), *Bridle Rosettes* by E. Helene Sage (2011), *Beyond Horse Massage* book and DVD set by Jim Masterson (2011) and *The Ring Bit* by Donald Minzenmayer (2011).

Wendy Gifford - *The Triple Crown Winners* by Suzanne Wilding and Anthony Del Balso (1975), *Ups & Downs* by Suzanne Wilding (1973) and Sam Savitt, and *The Book of Ponies* by Suzanne Wilding (1965).

Carleton Huff – *Everybody's Book of the Horse* by Frank Townend Barton (1908).

June Hughes – *The Poems of Adam Lindsay Gordon* by Douglas Sladen (1918).

Prudence Squier – Six bound volumes of *Outing* magazine (1897-1899).

Sylvia Wilson – Complete set of back issues of *Dressage & CT* magazine (1987-1996) and various back issues from 1981-1986.

Volunteer of the Year



Jimmy Hatcher

Featured Volunteer Margaret Littleton



Nicky Perry, Jon Carloftis, Margaret Littleton and Dale Fisher

Margaret Littleton has been a volunteer at the Library for the past two years. Her special interests are art, interior design, conservation/preservation and horses, having grown up on a thoroughbred horse farm in Culpepper County. Margaret is on the boards of the Virginia Gold Cup and the Virginia Fall Races in Middleburg. A frequent volunteer at NSLM special events, Margaret helped to create the very successful Derby Day party in 2011.

Upcoming Events

The Wildlife Paintings of Bruno Liljefors (Swedish, 1860 – 1939), February 4 – March 15, 2012

"Shooting Flying" in Literature and Art, Forrest E. Mars, Sr. Exhibit Hall, March 19, 2012 – June 30, 2012

Scraps: British Sporting Drawings from the Paul Mellon Collection at the VMFA, Richmond, April 6 – June 30, 2012

Kentucky Derby Day, Saturday, May 5, 2012, Library Founders' Room, Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council

Book Fair, Saturday, May 26, 2012, Library Founders' Room

Treasures from the Rare Book Room, Thursday, April 19, 2012, Ivy Circle and Chairman's Council

Polo Event, September 2012

Bob Kuhn: Drawing on Instinct, October 1, 2012 – February 28, 2013

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